

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12, 13 and 16-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 14 and 15 are canceled and claims 18-29 are added.

In particular, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter originally recited in claim 3. New independent claim 18 recites the subject matter originally recited in claims 1 and 4. New dependent claims 19-28 depend from claim 18, and recite additional features similar to those recited in dependent claims 2, 5-9, 12, 13, 16 and 17. New dependent claim 29 depends from claim 1.

Reconsideration in light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0176214 to Shukh et al. ("Shukh"). The Office Action also rejects claims 2, 4, 9, 11, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Shukh. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Shukh discloses third magnetic films that are disposed between a medium and the outermost coil turn of a coil film. However, Shukh does not disclose or suggest third magnetic films that are disposed between a medium opposing surface of the thin film magnetic head and an outermost coil turn of the coil film, as recited in claim 1.

Shukh discloses two side shields 19 having a main pole 11 therebetween and arranged parallel to the tracks of a recording medium 20. See Fig. 9 and paragraph [0030]. The side shields 19 may be arguably located between a coil 14 and the recording medium 20. However, Shukh does not disclose or suggest that the side shields 19 are located between the coil 14 and a medium opposing surface of the magnetic head, because, as shown in Fig. 9, the

side shields 19 are arranged parallel with the main pole 11, thus are at the outermost surface of the magnetic head towards the recording medium 20. Thus, Shukh does not disclose or suggest third magnetic films that are disposed between a medium opposing surface of the thin film magnetic head and an outermost coil turn of the coil film, as recited in claim 1.

In addition, Shukh discloses that the purpose of having the side shields 19 is for intercepting the fringing flux generated by the main pole 11. See paragraph [0030]. Shukh does not disclose or suggest third magnetic films that absorb magnetic flux leaked from the coil film, particularly the outermost coil turn thereof. See the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0037], [0042] and [0043]. Shukh does not disclose or suggest arranging third magnetic films relative to the coil film. Therefore, Shukh does not suggest or motivate third magnetic films that are disposed between a medium opposing surface of the thin film magnetic head and an outermost coil turn of the coil film, as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Shukh does not disclose or suggest third magnetic films that are so disposed as to cover the coil film, as originally recited in claim 4, and currently recited in new claim 18.

The Office Action admits that Shukh does not disclose third magnetic films that are so disposed as to cover the coil film, but asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the third magnetic films of Shukh to cover the coil film to improve the characteristics of Shukh's magnetic head. This assertion is without merits.

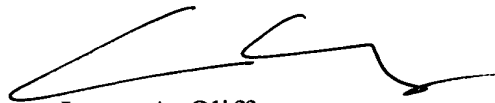
As discussed above, Shukh only discloses intercepting fringing flux generated by the main pole 11. Shukh does not disclose or suggest absorbing magnetic flux leaked from the coil film. Therefore, Shukh does not indicate any motivation to improve his magnetic head by covering the coil film. In fact, the Office Action does not specify any portion of Shukh that suggests a need for covering the coil film.

In view of the above, Shukh does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1, and claims 2, 5-9, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 29 depending therefrom. In addition, Shukh does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 18, and claims 19-29 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12, 13, 16 and 17 is respectfully requested. Also, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4, to the extent applicable to new claims 18-28, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12, 13 and 16-29 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/jth

Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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